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PLEASE RETURN



TOC H 75th ANNIVERSARY

*A SERVICE OF
THANKSGIVING
AND CELEBRATION*

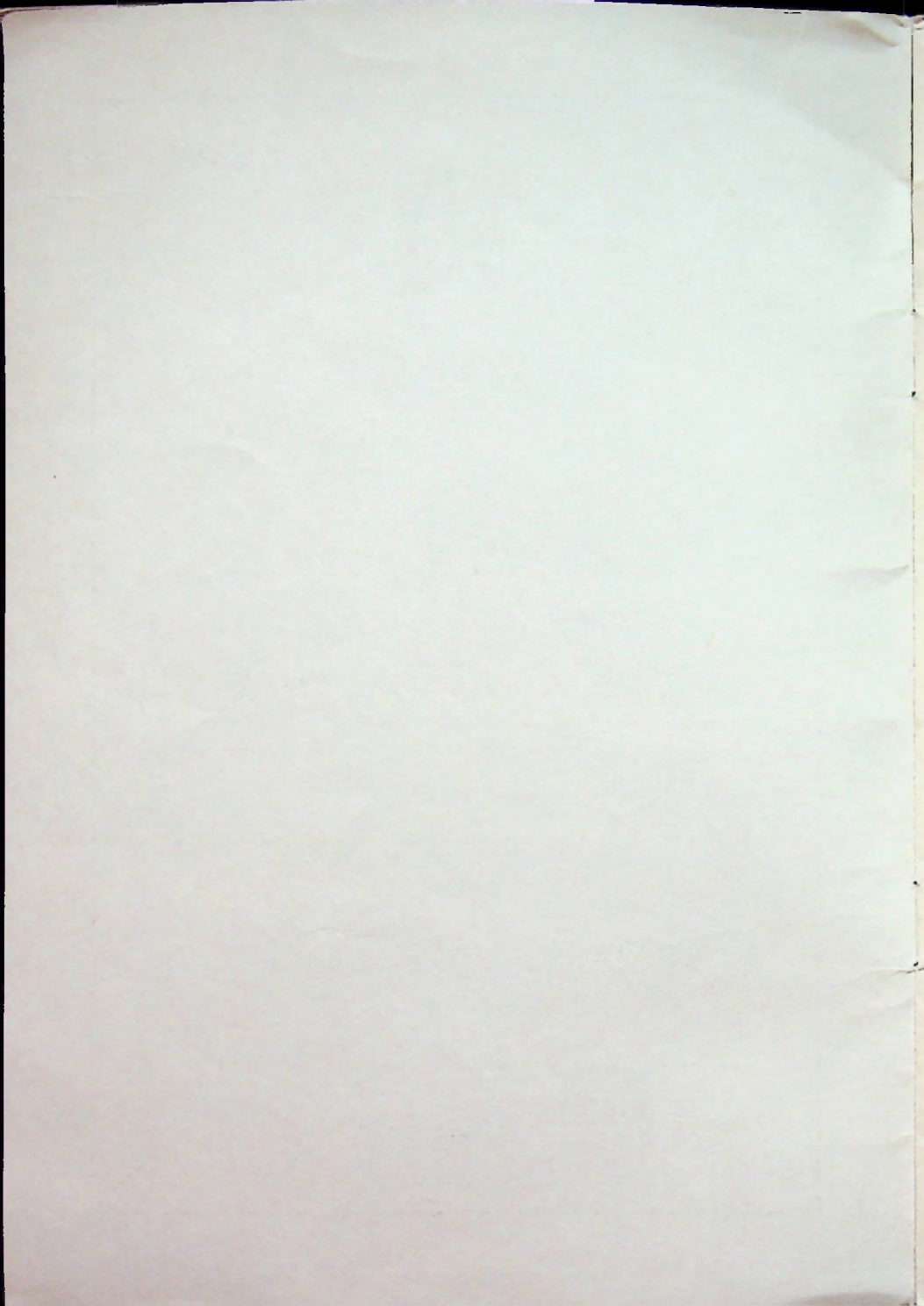
SATURDAY, 8th DECEMBER, 1990

12 midday

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

Trafalgar Square, London





INTRODUCTION

HYMN

(Words by W. Kethe. Tune: Old 100th from the Genevan Psalter.)

All people that on earth do dwell
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him, and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel-host
Be praise and glory evermore.

WELCOME

by The Revd. Geoffrey Brown,
Vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields
and The Revd. Alan Johnson,
Toc H National Chaplain.

INTRODUCTION by Mr John Mitchell, Director

We have gathered today for celebration. Seventy five years ago, on 11th December 1915, in Poperinge, just behind the front lines of Flanders, the doors of Talbot House opened. From that small beginning, under the charismatic leadership of Tubby Clayton, Toc H was born and grew to be a world-wide movement. For seventy five years people from all walks of life have joined the fellowship and activities of Toc H. All have taken part in a very special journey, a journey which will continue through this decade into a new century. Today we look back with thanksgiving for all that Toc H has been; we celebrate all that Toc H is, and we look forward to the future with hope and re-dedication.

We pray together:

ALL:

Father,
we have come into your presence
with thanksgiving in our hearts.
In this act of worship
in which we celebrate the spirit
which has guided Toc H,
may we be led to dedicate our lives
to that same Spirit of love and truth.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING

READINGS Through an elaborate, iron-grilled doorway I could hear the sound of laughter and music, and pushing through the door I found myself at once in a different world. It was amazing, I felt like Alice when she stepped through the looking-glass. There were soldiers all round me, of course, and Army slang in the air, but, in stepping across that threshold, I seemed to have left behind me all the depression and weariness of the street.....

After some hesitation I climbed the narrow stairway into the Upper Room - I knew nothing then of the loving care that had transformed the hop-loft into a sanctuary. I

knew nothing of the manifold sacrifices that had provided furniture and decorations; nothing of the many thousands who had there made their last Communion or of those others who had been confirmed beneath the raftered roof. I did not even know of the rude carpenter's bench beneath the beauty of the altar cloth. But this I knew at once - that I had entered "a very school of peace."

(Anon. Talbot House, Poperinge, quoted in A Way of Friendship)

I believe that Toc H at its best is a powerhouse. It's a medium through which people come together and go out again refreshed and renewed through shared activity, or lively discussion, or the warmth of the fellowship. It challenges people to put a bit more into life, and discover how much more they get out of it. It's where people can really meet each other on a level that society isn't used to, and find the joy and freedom that comes in unconditional relationships.... Toc H must always be open to all, a 'milieu' in which real friendships happen between people of different creeds and denominations, and those who don't know. I think the one thing we need to have in common is that we are all 'seekers', and hopefully in Toc H we will accept the challenge to consider and try to live out the simple, impossible standards of Jesus the man, and see where it leads us.

(Sue Cumming. Point Three, August 1977)

We recommend ourselves by the innocence of our behaviour, our grasp of truth, our patience and kindness; by gifts of the Holy spirit, by sincere love, by declaring the truth, by the power of God. We wield the weapons of righteousness in right hand and left.

(II Corinthians 6.3-10)

KNEEL FOR PRAYER

Lord God, we thank you
for all the good things you have given us in Toc H
the joys of fellowship and service,
the challenge to be fairminded,
the hope of your kingdom.

ALL: Lord, we thank you.

We thank you
for Talbot House, Poperinge,
for those who served there
and all who enjoyed that hospitality

ALL: Lord, we thank you.

We thank you
for all who have shared the journey of Toc H
through 75 years
all who have led the movement,
all who were and are members

ALL: Lord, we thank you.

We thank you
for all we have gained from Toc H
and for all that it has given to your world

ALL: Lord, we thank you.

We thank you
that your Spirit still guides and leads us.

ALL: Lord, we thank you.

(A short silence is kept for reflection.)

ALL: In thanksgiving we pray
O God who has so wonderfully made Toc H, and set us in it to see
our duty as thy will, teach us to live together in love and joy and
peace; to check all bitterness; to disown discouragement; to practise
thanksgiving, and to leap with joy to any task for others. Strengthen
the good thing thus begun; that with gallant and high-hearted hap-
piness we may work for thy kingdom in the wills of men; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN:

(Words by W. H. Draper. Tune: Easter Song from Catholische Kirchengesänge)

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice;
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on him cast your care;
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One;
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

ADDRESS

by The Rt. Revd. James Thompson,
Bishop of Stepney.

CELEBRATION AND RE-DEDICATION

HYMN:

(Words from eighth century Irish. Tune: Slane, Irish traditional melody.)

(During this hymn, representative members of branches, friendship circles, projects, centres and Toc H overseas process to the Lamp of Maintenance carrying unlighted candles.)

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
Be thou mine inheritance now and always;
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart:
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

ALL SIT FOR THE READING

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God whenever I think of you; and when I pray for you all, my prayers are always joyful, because of the part you have taken in the work of the gospel from the first day until now. Of one thing I am certain: the One who started the good work in you will bring it to completion by the Day of Christ Jesus...And this is my prayer, that your love may grow ever richer and richer in knowledge and insight of every kind, and may thus bring you the gift of true discrimination. Then on the Day of Christ you will be flawless and without blame, reaping the full harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

(Philippians 1.2-6,9-11)

ALL STAND

We remember with gratitude
all who gave loving service in Talbot House
especially Tubby Clayton

ALL: **We will remember them.**

We remember with gratitude
our elder brethren of Toc H through 75 years;
those known to us
and those known only to you

ALL: **We will remember them.**

ALL: **Teach us good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do thy will, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE CEREMONY OF LIGHT

(The Lamp is lit.)

With proud thanksgiving let us remember our elder brethren.
They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them

ALL: We will remember them.

(One minute's silence)

A branch member:

I light this candle in celebration of all branches.
May our light lead others to the joy of fellowship.

A friendship circle member:

I light this candle in celebration of all friendship circles.
May our light lead others to the discovery of wholeness.

A project volunteer:

I light this candle in celebration of all projects.
May our light lead others to the fun of working together.

A centre worker:

I light this candle in celebration of all Toc H centres.
May our light lead others to build a loving society.

An overseas visitor:

I light this candle in celebration of Toc H members across the
world.
May our light witness to the unity of the family of the world.

Chaplain: We pray together

ALL: We celebrate Toc H in all its rich variety.
In thinking fairly
may we lessen prejudice,
In loving widely
may we encourage a spirit of reconciliation;
In witnessing humbly
may we develop a faith to live by;
In building bravely
may we create a world community
worthy of being called
the Kingdom of God
following the example of Jesus.
Amen.

The Bishop and National Chaplain stand together at the Lamp.

ALL STAND.

Chaplain: We re-dedicate ourselves to Toc H by saying together:

ALL: In thanksgiving for the past 75 years of Toc H;
In celebration of all that Toc H is today;
We re-dedicate ourselves to the journey of discovery in Toc H
through developing loving relationships
and seeking personal wholeness.

In token of this we affirm:
We are called to be instruments of God's will.
Where there is hatred, let us bring love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is sadness, joy;
And where there is darkness, let us bring light.

(One minute's silence)

Chaplain: Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works

ALL: And glorify our Father which is in heaven.

(The Lamp and candles are extinguished.)

BLESSING by the Bishop of Stepney.

Go out into the world.
Carry with you God's love in your heart
and share it with all people.
Take with you Christ's peace and give it,
in turn, to all people who are in need of it.
Bear with you the Holy Spirit's blessing,
and wherever you go there may it abide.
So shall all people know that you have walked with God
and give thanks that you have also walked with them.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and all those whom you love,
now and for evermore. **Amen.**

HYMN:

(Words: E. L. Budry. Tune: Maccabaeus, G. F. Handel.)

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:
Thine be the glory...

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
Life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe to Jordan to thy home above:
Thine be the glory...